



# The St J's Group

## MORNING PRAISE

10.30am - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

**'The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.'** Acts 16:34

### Welcome

**Song - (Sung twice)**

Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are, to worship.  
Come, just as you are, before your God.  
Come.

One day every tongue will confess  
You are God.

One day every knee will bow.  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
Who gladly choose you now.

### Confession

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you through our own fault in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

### The collect for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### First Reading – Acts 16:16 - 16:24

**16** Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. **17** She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.' **18** She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned round and said to the spirit, 'In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!' At that moment the spirit left her.

**19** When her owners realised that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place to face the authorities.

**20** They brought them before the magistrates and said, 'These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar **21** by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practise.'

**22** The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. **23** After they had been severely flogged,

### Hymn Tune:Gopsal

1 Rejoice, the Lord is King.

Your Lord and King adore;

mortals, give thanks and sing,

and triumph evermore:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*

*rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

2 Jesus the Saviour, reigns,

the God of truth and love;

when he had purged our stains,

he took his seat above: Chorus.

3 His kingdom cannot fail;

he rules o'er earth and heaven;

the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given: Chorus.

4 He sits at God's right hand

till all his foes submit,

and bow to his command,

and fall beneath his feet: Chorus.

5 Rejoice in glorious hope;

Jesus the Judge shall come,

and take his servants up

to their eternal home:

*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice*

*the trump of God shall sound: Rejoice!*

### Dismissal

**To God, who is higher than our highest thoughts, yet closer than our closest friend, be thanks and praise, glory and honour, this day and for evermore. Amen.**

**You are most welcome to stay for coffee after the end of service**

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*<http://www.stjsgroup.church/give>.*

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*Claire Carr Tel: 01761 568216 Email: [claire.carr@stjsgroup.church](mailto:claire.carr@stjsgroup.church)*

they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. **24** When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn - (Sung twice)**

Jesus be the centre  
By my source, be my light Jesus  
Jesus be the centre  
Be my hope, be my song Jesus  
Be the fire in my heart  
Be the wind in these sails  
Be the reason that I live  
Jesus, Jesus  
Jesus be my vision  
Be my path, be my guide Jesus

**Second Reading – Acts 16:25 - 16:40**

**25** About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. **26** Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. **27** The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. **28** But Paul shouted, ‘Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!’ **29** The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. **30** He then brought them out and asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ **31** They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.’ **32** Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. **33** At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised. **34** The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole household. **35** When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: ‘Release those men.’ **36** The jailer told Paul, ‘The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.’ **37** But Paul said to the officers: ‘They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.’ **38** The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. **39** They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. **40** After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Talk - Paul and Silas in prison - Dick Beath**

**Song**

Here is love vast as the ocean,  
Loving kindness as the flood,  
When the Prince of life, our ransom  
Shed for us His precious blood.  
Who His love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten  
Throughout heaven’s eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion  
Fountains opened deep and wide;  
Through the floodgates of God’s mercy  
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,  
Poured incessant from above,  
And heaven’s peace and perfect justice  
Kissed a guilty world in love.

**Prayers of Intercession**

King of Kings, Prince of Peace, we exalt You and praise Your name. We daily delight in your endless love and bask in Your saving grace. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

We come to You on bended knee, in earnest prayer and petition: Help us to live in harmony; this is our goal and our mission. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

Where there is brokenness, we ask You to mend it. Where there is weakness, we ask for Your strength. Where there is sin, we beg Your forgiveness. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

Where there is doubt, we invite more faith. Where there is pride, help us be humble. Where there's resentment, help us find peace. Where there is threat, we ask for protection. Please shelter our love beneath Your wings. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

Where there's a need, let us help one another. Where there's temptation, help us resist. Where we stumble, help us recover. Where praise is needed, let it come from our lips. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

Where there is pain, we ask for healing. Where there is hate, replace it with love. Where all seems hopeless, we beseech Your blessing. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

From the depth of our heart we ask all the above. This is our prayer and our deep desire, this is the passion that consumes our hearts. Help us to be an example for others. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**